**National Policy on Population**

974. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a National Policy on Population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy has taken into consideration the communities whose religions are against the use of family planning methods preventing child birth;

(d) if so, how the policy deals with them; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to pursue such communities for adopting small family norms in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes Sir, the Government has adopted the National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which envisages a set of National socio-demographic goals including attainment of Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 to be achieved by 2010 so as to stabilise the population by 2045 at a level consistent with the socio-economic development of the country. The Policy advocates voluntary adoption of small family norm.

The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples of all Communities to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their own choice, without any compulsion irrespective of their caste, creed, faith or religion. The challenge is not so much of demand generation for family planning services, as of fulfilling gaps in service delivery. The Government accordingly aims to stress on Behavioural Change Communication and on improving access of couples to quality family planning services.

**Free travelling for unemployed youth to take examinations**

975. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to allow/permit unemployed youths to travel free whenever they go to take examinations and interviews;